

ASIAN INSIGHT

The Voice of the Asian Community in Greater Boston

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Master Plan progressing

By John Shaw

By early 1988, Chinatown residents are expected to have a draft of a document which many have waited over a decade to receive. The document is the Chinatown Master Plan.

A Master Plan sub-committee of the Chinatown/South Cove Neighborhood Council began meeting early this summer to discuss potential topics that residents say need to be fully discussed in an open forum in the community.

The members met with officials from the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA). That agency is helping coordinate the process, including lending technical support and giving \$110,000 to complete the entire four-part study, of which this is the first part.

The sub-committee whittled the concerns into seven categories, which are (in no particular order):

- Housing development;
- Transportation/traffic;
- Economic/employment development;
- Open space/recreation;
- Land use;
- Social services; and
- Garbage.

With this information as a start, a series of meetings with business owners, community leaders and other interested residents commenced on Sept. 22. The small group discussions will occur until the end of October, according to neighborhood council executive director Tarry Hum. A summary of the working sessions will be compiled and presented to the general community sometime around Thanksgiving for further

neighborhood discussion.

"The community has an opportunity to be proactive rather than reactive," Hum remarked. "That's the whole basis for this community plan—so that we can plan what we will see in Chinatown in five or ten years."

She stated that representatives of nearby institutions will not be included in the process because they do not necessarily have the best interests of the neighborhood in mind. This is a backlash from the on-going dispute over Dorchester's St. Margaret's Hospital moving to Chinatown despite strident opposition from residents in both communities.

Hum added that while the items are a good place to start, the neighborhood must also deal with the specifics. "For example, in housing, [we must decide] what kind do we want. Do we want all low-income, condominiums, mixed income, co-operatives? We have to make those kinds of decisions," she said.

Added Carol Lee, another CNC member, "The neighborhood has

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Tranquility



A salute to our journalistic colleagues for a decade of dedicated service. *Inland Sea: Sailboat (Forenoon)*, 1926, is by Japanese artist Hiroshi Yoshida. It is part of the Asian Collection at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Sets and smashes



With the Financial District looming in the background, the 43rd Annual North American International Volleyball Tournament took place over Labor Day. See page 8 for story, pictures.

WILLIAM LAM PHOTO

At what price development?

By Robert Chien-chuan Chu

"When land becomes too valuable to be used for smut, it will be used for something else." — Larry DiCara, president, Theater District Association, quoted in *Boston Globe*, 4 July 1987.

"Chinatown is on the verge of becoming an island of shrinking opportunities for Asians, with megadevelopment encroaching on every side." — *Boston Sunday Globe*, 2 August 1987.

OPINION

As skyrocketing real estate prices drive pornographic theaters out of the Combat Zone, a political crisis is brewing. Chinatown's need for affordable housing and accessible jobs calls into question Boston's multibillion dollar development boom. Community residents and activists are asking, what prevents land that is "too valuable... for smut" from becoming "too valuable" for low-cost housing? What ensures that jobs in the new downtown office towers will be accessible to Asian workers? How can Chinatown take control of its own land and labor?

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City appoints liaison to work in Chinatown area

The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services has announced that Yon Lee has joined the Flynn Administration as the neighborhood coordinator for Chinatown and liaison to the Chinese community.

Before joining Neighborhood Services, Lee served as Executive Director of the Chinese Cultural Center in Boston. As Executive Director, Lee administered cultural programs and activities for the Center and worked with various community groups and governmental agencies on exchange programs with China and on Chinese/American relations.

A long-time Chinatown resident and activist, Lee expects to bridge the gap between the neighborhood and the city bureaucracy.

A native of Taishan, China, Lee came to Boston when he was nine years old, has lived here all his life, and has been active in several community groups in Boston's Chinatown community. As neighborhood coordinator for Chinatown, Lee will continue to work with these groups and residents on a wide range of issues including efforts to limit crime and other activities that impact the residential character of Chinatown.

Lee will also work closely with the Chinatown/South Cove Neighborhood Council to implement the Administration's housing and development goals within the community. In addition, as the MBTA dismantles the old elevated tracks, begins the rebuilding and reconstruction along Washington Street and deliberates on a permanent replacement service, Lee's job will be to keep residents involved and informed during the complicated process.

"I care deeply about the Chinatown community and its residents and I look forward to working with Mayor Flynn who shares that concern," Lee said. "People who visit, work and live in Chinatown have already begun to

see the results of the positive efforts of the Flynn Administration. I hope to continue those efforts."

Don Gillis, Director of Neighborhood Services, added, "We are fortunate to have Yon join our staff. Chinatown is a neighborhood at crossroads facing important decisions. Yon has been involved in those issues for a long time and has shown that he can

work with the broader Chinese community throughout the city. I know he will work hard to keep the community abreast, informed and involved, and that Mayor Flynn's goal of preserving the integrity of the Chinatown neighborhood and an improved quality of life for Chinese residents across the city can be achieved."



Lee is the newest Asian member to join the Office of Neighborhood Services. Last month, the department hired liaisons to the Cambodian and Vietnamese communities.

Japanese rock garden in the works at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts

By Paul Lee

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, has begun construction of an authentic Japanese garden on the north side of the Museum. The garden replaces the interior Japanese garden that was removed from the Asiatic galleries during the renovation of the Asiatic Wing. Completion of the garden is expected during the fall of 1987 with a formal dedication scheduled for the spring of 1988.

According to Jan Fontein, museum director, "It is most appropriate that the Museum of Fine Arts with its extraordinary, world-renowned collections of Asiatic art, participate in the tradition of Japanese gardens, which are an integral part of that nation's culture. The construction of the garden continues a long tradition at the Museum in a city which has a strong horticultural tradition. The Museum is also fortunate to have many visitors from Japan each year."

Fontein also noted that more than two million Japanese have visited exhibitions from the Museum of Fine Arts in Japan.

He continued, "The new location on the north side of the Museum on The Fenway was selected because this

spot, next to the Evans Wing for Paintings, is the least likely to ever be needed for further expansion of the Museum. A former plan to locate the garden in an inner courtyard proved unworkable due to logistic problems, notably the installation of the stones which would have had to be moved by helicopters."

The garden is designed by Professor Kinsaku Nakane, the leading Japanese landscape architect. The garden's design is created with the confines of the local climate and topographical features. At present, the stones, which come from Topsfield, Boxford, Rockport, are being installed.

The garden, which is 100' x 120' will include a 6'-0" roof-tiled wall around its perimeter, a large Japanese wooden gate, Japanese stone lanterns, a water basin, granite paths, and plantings to be installed in the spring. Funds for this project were provided in 1977 by Yosoji Kobayashi, then President of the Nippon Television Network.

According to Professor Nakane, "The idea behind this landscape is the recreation of the essence of mountains, the oceans and islands in a garden setting, as I have seen them

in the beautiful landscape of New England. This will be a *karensansui*, dry mountain water landscape, as are many famous gardens in Japan. The mountains and islands symbolize the natural beauty of this region, and, at the same time, mean enduring prosperity and happiness for the Museum visitors. The method used for setting stones here in an ancient one, dating back to the middle ages of Japanese history."

Professor Nakane, whose office is in Kyoto, has built over 300 gardens throughout the world. He most recently completed the garden at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library. He has also lectured at the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

His son, Shiro Nakane is Professor Nakane's Chief Assistant on the project. Acting as Project Coordinator is Julie Moir Messervy of Messervy Associates, who worked with the Nakanes for several years in Japan. The Halvorson Company is Project Landscape Architect.

Installation of the rocks and plants is by Donald B. Curran, Inc., of Boxford, MA, Landscape Contractor. Jackson Construction Company of Dedham is general contractor and coordinator.

Korean lauds democracy in speech

By John Shaw

On the night that the United States celebrated the 200th birthday of its Constitution, a key member of a troubled nation halfway across the world spoke of how her country might be able to follow America in that democratic tradition.

Lee Hee Ho, the wife of South Korea government opposition leader Kim Dae Jung, briefly spoke at graduation ceremonies at Northeastern University's Matthews Arena last Thursday, Sept. 17. She had arrived in the country earlier that day to receive an honorary degree from the school for being "one of her country's leading human rights activists."

In a prepared speech, Ho praised the United States' government system and said that it was that inspiration which gave her husband and many other South Koreans the will to carry on the struggle to create a democracy.

"Only a few months ago, democracy in our country seemed like a dream far beyond our reach," she told the audience, which included 930 NU graduates. "I stand here before you, however, as the ultimate proof that the power of a people who long cherished the dream of freedom has overwhelmed the odds and freed us from political persecution."



Ho is looking forward to the new elections, the first one in several years.

She further said that this past summer's uprisings, which occurred in many of the country's universities, "was the culmination of our long struggle. The government, along with the ruling party, promised reforms which calmed the tidal wave for democracy that had been begun by

the desire of the masses for social justice." Free elections to elect a new president are scheduled for February.

Ho noted that this was not the first time the general public has tried to achieve concessions from a dictatorial government. Struggles in 1960 and 1979 achieved little.

Ho noted that the struggle for democracy began at the termination of World War II when the country was freed from a long-term Japanese domination. She said the democratic effort was "frustrated by the arbitrary decision of the United States and the USSR ignoring our yearning for a unified democracy" which caused the North and South Koreans that exist today.

She said that although a long struggle is anticipated, the new elections slated for February, 1988 is a good sign that things will hopefully be improving. "We are convinced that the ultimate glory for us would be the achievement of genuine democracy," she declared, although she said that "repressive" laws, "abuse of political power... and politics by coercion, repression and intimidation" are still in effect.

She remains hopeful, however, that the government repeals its restricting press law and continues to release "prisoners of conscience" in the future.

Ho did note a marked decrease in "anti-Americanism" in recent months stemming from the "important contributions during the June revolution this past summer by assuring the Korean military not to intervene and by rendering moral support for the democratic cause."

She has worked to improve the status of Asian women, not just in her home country but throughout the continent. Among the causes she has worked for include the Organization for Young Korean Women (of which she is director of foreign affairs), the Center for Women's Problems (she is president) and the Pan Pacific South East Asia Women's Association, Korean chapter (she is president). Ho has also served in the past on the Korean Women's Council, the Korean USO and Korean YWCA.

That work, however, has mostly come while her husband was jailed for protesting the country's turbulent government. She has spoken on behalf of her husband, similar to that of Winnie Mandela, wife of the long-imprisoned South African opposition leader Nelson Mandela. Only recently was Jung released from his South Korean jail, although he remains under observation.

The graduate from National University of Seoul and Scaritt College in Nashville, Tenn. left the country the following day.

Visiting writer learns about USA

By Linda Lew-Hanson

It was her fluency in English that eventually opened up the doors for Sun Ying Xia to enter the United States. It just took a bit longer to enter the country than she originally expected.

Xia, a reporter for the *Nan Fang Daily* in Guangzhou, People's Republic of China, has been working for the *Quincy Patriot Ledger* for the past few months as a general assignment reporter. She is in America via a grant from the Alfred Friendly Press Fellowship Program. The program, initiated several years ago, is designed to improve understanding between American and Third World journalists.

However, it took her more than two years to receive the five-month internship because officials connected with the program did not believe her English was good enough. That was before she applied a second time and was finally accepted.

In fact, while in Washington D.C. early in her stay, she ran into the late Friendly's wife and son at a party, the two (who are members of the selection committee) remarked how well she spoke English and said she never should have been rejected in the first place.

Xia says this did not bother her because she is finally here, doing what she has wanted to do for some time—be a reporter for an American daily.

Since she has been in the States, she has concentrated on school, business and cultural articles. It is quite different from her work on her hometown paper, where she has concentrated on youth and women issues in the Communist country.



Sun Ying Lee (left) chats with writer Linda Lew-Hanson at recent interview.

She says there is a major difference between her home paper and American papers, the *Patriot Ledger* in particular. For one thing there is the advanced technology, automation and computerization that is standard in most large American dailies today. In contrast to the computer she uses to write on in Quincy, Xia still types her stories at home on the journalists' tried and true machine—the typewriter.

Additionally, the sheer volume of equipment dazzles her. The *Patriot Ledger*, with a circulation of about 80,000, pales in comparison to the 800,000 daily circulation of the *Nan Fang Daily*. Facilities are another matter, however.

"Back home, several editors share the same phone," she says with a laugh, remembering what a problem that can be. Transportation is also not up to American standards. She rides her bicycle to work and shares a staff automobile car with several other writers to go out on assignments.

Other than improving on her English written and verbal skills, she has also learned much of Western journalistic practices, which are different than those in China. Rather than read about it, she has had the chance to see how the vaunted American free press system works.

Not all her time has been spent behind the computer terminal, though. She has had to learn such Western practices as tipping a waiter in restaurants and paying different sales taxes for goods. Another thing is the non-Chinese practice of greeting and speaking to people only to gather information, something that is done as a matter of course by Western journalists. In fact, she wrote a hilarious account for the *Patriot Ledger* outlining some of the difficulties (albeit fun) she has encountered in the States. And she can now get around parts of Boston without getting totally lost, something many people who have lived their entire lives in Greater Boston still have not managed to accomplish.

When her internship expires, Xia would like to extend her visa and further her education and improve her English proficiency. But even if that does not occur, she will return to China with a better knowledge of how the Western world operates.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Master Plan a historic first

By Tarry Hum and Ting-Fun Yeh

Seeking a tool to shape the future development of Chinatown and improve the quality of life for its residents, the Chinatown-South Cove Neighborhood Council and the Boston Redevelopment Authority are working together to develop a comprehensive, community-based master plan for Chinatown.

This is a very exciting opportunity for Chinatown since the master plan process enables the community to take a proactive position in advancing issues critical to the neighborhood.

The development of a master plan was initiated by the CNC upon its inception at the end of 1985.

Various funding resources have been approached since. In the fall of 1986, the council received a \$50,000 grant from the BRA to facilitate its participation in the KingsBedford/Parcel 18 linkage project and the development of a master plan.

By mid-June this year, as the review of the New England Medical Center garage proposal drew to a close, the BRA set forth the framework for the development of a master plan that will function as a benchmark for future planning and development in Chinatown.

On July 20, the council voted to try the collaboration with the BRA. To date, an additional \$60,000 has been approved by the BRA board for planning activities in support of the community-based master plan, including a survey on housing conditions, user characteristics, business and employer characteristics, and land use in Chinatown.

The Chinatown master plan has embarked at a time when the city is about to begin the first comprehensive zoning review for downtown Boston in two decades.

Consequently, objectives and concerns identified through the master plan process can be partly im-

plemented through the amendment of zoning regulation regarding land use, density, building height, and historical preservation. In addition, planning policies, design guidelines and other strategic measures can be developed and implemented.

Given the immediate development pressures in and around Chinatown as well as the unique opportunities, the goal is to complete the master plan within twelve months and in two phases.

By the end of January, 1988, a draft basic plan should be produced primarily based on community consensus. During the second six months, the draft basic plan should be subject to extensive public review by all interested parties and further revision and development. The finished plan will then be submitted for final review and approval by the city.

From mid-September to mid-October, a four-part Chinatown survey will be conducted on (1) housing conditions, (2) user characteristics, (3) business and employer characteristics, and (4) land use. The survey will produce up-to-date information and critical data that would help identify community needs and concerns.

The initial community participation process for the first phase of master plan process will also begin. It will take place in two stages. The first stage is a series of small working sessions involving members of community organizations and agencies, and community leaders, beginning September 23 through October 22.

The working session will focus on housing development, community services and facilities, business development and employment, transportation and traffic, and land use and zoning.

The goal is to identify areas of concerns and priorities, and potential strategies. A summary of the common consensus developed through the working sessions will then be presented at community meetings starting in mid-November for further review.

Community consensus of objectives and priorities developed through the working sessions and the community meetings will provide the central reference point for the producing of the draft basic plan by the end of January, 1988.

Participation by neighborhood residents and community members throughout the development process is critical to a community-based master plan. It will enhance the effectiveness of the unique opportunity to develop broad-based consensus on the future direction of the Chinatown neighborhood and its role as the center of the New England Asian community.

Tarry Hum is the executive director of Chinatown/South Cove Neighborhood Council.

Ting-Fun Yeh is the Chinatown planner and project coordinator of BRA.



The Chinatown community has protested encroaching development in the past, as this photo from the early 1970s can attest. The writers feel a Master Plan will alleviate residents' fears.

Greetings



Incumbent Mayor Raymond Flynn is shown at a fundraiser at China Pearl restaurant last month, with more than 200 people attending the event. Flynn is in the Nov. 3 run-off for a second term. He was the top vote-getter in the race, leading City Councilor Joseph Tierney. Look for a story about both candidates in the October issue of *Asian Insight*, which will come out the week of Oct. 25.

ASIAN INSIGHT

VOLUME 1

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PERSONALITY PROFILE

Boston, S.F. similar, planner finds

By John Shaw

Chi-Hsin Shao has done a lot of walking around town, as well as driving, since he arrived in Boston on August 3. But although he is emulating the millions of tourists who arrive in the Hub every year, his travels have been for a much higher purpose than checking out "Old Ironsides," Faneuil Hall or the Prudential Center.

He is here to help straighten out the city's traffic mess.

Shao, 36, is in his second month as the Transportation Department's deputy commissioner for transportation planning and policy. It is a position he knows something about: he held a similar position for the past eight years in San Francisco's planning department, which coordinates mitigating traffic improvements in the West Coast's equivalent of Boston.

He said in a recent interview that he had heard of Boston's traffic problems even from 3,000 miles away. And at first glance, he said that he sees similarities between the two cities.

"The approaches in both cities are similar," he remarked. "For example, in terms of traffic progression, the traffic lights in San Francisco are computerized, and Boston is just getting started."

The city has had an auspicious start in that program, however. Although the traffic light program has been implemented with no trouble in several sections (including Chinatown and the adjacent Financial District), it ran aground in the Back Bay and Beacon Hill over light switch box size, placement and lack of communication between transportation officials and neighborhood leaders.

Shao said his impression of the city's traffic—which many neighborhood and business leaders, as well as most drivers, believe to be terrible—is not as bad as it may seem.

"It's not any different from other major cities. They all have their problems," he stated.

He cited the current parking ban on major arteries such as Tremont, Arlington and Congress streets as an indication of how the city can—and can continue—to deal with the increasing number of vehicles which enter Boston every day.

Originally from Taiwan, where he graduated from



Shao is out on the streets—literally.

college, Shao came to the United States 11 years ago to attend graduate school at Stanford University. He was graduated with a Masters in mass transportation in 1978 and began working in San Francisco. He became the chief transportation planner in 1982.

Commissioner Richard Dimino said that Shao will develop street traffic measures to best fit Boston's intricate roadway pattern. Shao said that unlike San Francisco, whose streets are set up in a grid pattern, Boston will prove to be a greater challenge because of

its meandering streets, many of which are former horse and cow paths created before the Revolution.

Dimino said that he considered candidates from New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., but chose Shao because of his extensive background.

Shao is also expected to work with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority regarding the proposed Fan Pier/Pier 4 project and other development plans.

Master Plan

continued from page 1

never had consistent plan or vision. The [development] pressures have always been there, but now they are greater."

She pointed to the soon-to-be revitalized South Station area, the Central Artery/Third Tunnel project and proposed institutional expansion as just the tip of the iceberg in a neighborhood which some say has tripled in size since the beginning of the decade.

The city is taking other steps to gather information needed to make well-informed decisions. Beginning late this month, a multi-lingual team of workers hit the Chinatown streets in an attempt to take a house-by-house survey. The team hopes to gather information such as number of residents per household and a more accurate count of the neighborhood's population. According to the 1980 Federal Census, about 3,600 people lived in Chinatown. Many believe the



Lee: the Master Plan is needed.

population has doubled and even tripled in the seven years since.

However, many of the residents are illegal immigrants, thus making it difficult to take an accurate reading.

Briefly

Roxbury, CNC sign on

The Roxbury and Chinatown/South Cove neighborhood councils have signed a memorandum of agreement regarding the replacement transportation service for the departed Elevated Orange Line system.

The agreement was signed at the CNC's Oct. 22 meeting, according to executive director Tarry Hum. In it, both neighborhoods—which had been on opposite sides of the issue, agreed that the light rail vehicles (LRV) option would be the best alternative.

The MBTA is still studying the issue despite last month's federal setback that would eliminate all federal funding for the LRV option. A series of community meetings are planned for later in the Fall.

St. Margaret's update

The hospital received another boost late last month when the holding company, Caritas Christi, approved the

move to Chinatown.

According to Ellen Winoground, hospital spokesperson, the facility is committed to working with the community to mitigate the potential problems associated with adding another institution to the crowded neighborhood.

Winoground said that no dates have yet been set for public community hearings. She revealed, however, that the Oak Street parking lot will be the site for the new facility.

Fundraising for pols

Nov. 13 will be the date for a fundraiser to benefit two out-of-state politicians who plan on running in the 1988 election in their respective state.

Present Delaware Lt. Gov. S.B. Woo plans to make a run at the U.S. Senate, while Lily Lee Chen hopes to make to the Congress from her home state of California.

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Arts and Entertainment

Chinese Watercolors.

The Chinese Cultural Institute will present the watercolors of Shakong Wang in "Boston Remembers" his memories and impressions of the city and its vicinity. Gallery hours: Tues.-Sat., 10:00-5:00 p.m. his memories and impressions of the city and its vicinity. Gallery hours: Tues.-Sat., 10:00-5:00 p.m.

A major exhibition featuring 2D and 3D works by renowned contemporary Chinese artists now living and working in Europe and America will open on October 16 and run until Jan. 15. These artists have recently formed the Overseas Chinese Artists Association.

Kaji Asi Studio

Japanese speaking painting classes for Japanese teenagers and adults is now being offered. There is also a black and white painting class, Japanese calligraphy class, Japanese language class and a poetry workshop. These courses are offered at all levels. For more information, call 247-1719.

Ryohei Tanaka exhibit.

An exhibition of recent works of Ryohei Tanaka, by Japanese leading etcher Tanaka, will be showing at Kiki Sui Gallery through Oct. 1. The gallery is located at 101 Charles St. For more information, call 227-4288.

Chinese Music and Dance Showcase.

Internationally recognized performing artists from Beijing, Taipei and Shanghai will be featured in the Showcase of Chinese Music and Dance at M.I.T.'s Kresge Auditorium, November 1st. Performances include classical and folk dances, folk and art songs and classical instrument performances. Tickets are \$20. Chinese Culture Institute members—\$15 and students with I.D.s—\$10 (CCI student member—\$8).

Chinese music and dance, November 1

The Chinese Cultural Institute will host acclaimed artists from both the People's Republic of China and Nationalist China at 2:30 p.m. at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Kresge Auditorium. Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$15 for CCI members, and \$10 for students. Call 542-4599 for more information.

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The Shanghai Acrobatic Troupe

Performing at Boston Garden with the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, Oct. 15 through Oct. 25. The troupe, from The People's Republic of China, is appearing in the United States for the first time. (See preview elsewhere in paper.) Tickets range from \$8.00 to \$11.50, available at Ticketron and at the Garden.

China Folksong and Dance Ensemble, October 13.

The group makes its first Boston appearance at 7:30, 620 Huntington Avenue at the Massachusetts College of Art auditorium. Tickets are \$12.00. Call 491-0577 for more information.

Sankai Juku, Oct. 9 and 10

The Boston premiere of *Joman Sho: Homage to Prehistory*. Presented at the initial show of the Dance Umbrella. Shows are at the Opera House, 539 Washington Street, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$22.50, \$19.50, and \$16.50. (Dance Umbrella members costs are \$19, \$16, and \$14). See story in other section of paper.

Jo Ha Kyu, Dec. 4-6

The Dance Umbrella presents the Boston-based company's show *Different House, Same Address*. The shows are at the Joy of Movement Studio Theatre, 536 Massachusetts Avenue. The Dec. 4 and 5 shows are at 8 p.m., the Dec. 6 show is at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 (\$8.50 for Dance Umbrella members).

Chinafest '87

Runs from Sept. 24 through Sept. 28 at the World Trade Center, Boston. It is billed as the largest exposition of Chinese goods ever to come to Boston. The goods are from Guangdong Province, People's Republic of China. Hours are 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Parking is available. Free.

New Magazine

Cambodian New Life, a 50-page magazine written this past year by 8th grade English as a Second Language students from the Williams Junior High in Chelsea, is now available to the public. The stories tell, in the students' own words, about life in Cambodia, their families and the struggle to survive.

Cambodia New Life is part of the on-going ROOTS programs jointly developed by the Education and Resources Group and the Chelsea Public Schools. Direct inquiries to the Education and Resources Group, 45 School Street, Boston, 02108 or call 523-1184.

Asian Calendar

To have your organization event listed in the Asian Calendar send your information, typewritten please to: ASIAN INSIGHT, c/o Citizen Group Publications, 481 Harvard Street, Brookline, Mass. 02146. Deadline for October issue is Tuesday, October 20, 1987.

Modern dance



Sankai Juku will be performing Oct. 4-6 as the opening show of the Dance Umbrella. See listing at left for more details.

Talks and Discussions

Program on U.S.-Japan relations

A weekly series of seminars on current political and economic issues. In October:

Oct. 6, Yoshio Murakami, Washington bureau chief of Asahi newspaper. "Current issues between US and Japan: The security relationship and Japan's domestic politics."

Oct. 13, William D. Eberle, President, Manchester Associates. "Trends in Japan's direct investment in the United States"

Oct. 20, Prof. Robert J.C. Butow, University of Washington, Department of History and East Asian Studies, "FDR and Japan: The controversial road to war."

Oct. 27, Hishi Owada, Deputy Vice-Minister, Foreign Affairs, Japan. "Pressures in U.S.-Japan Relations: A view from the Japanese foreign ministry."

Educational Screening

Brookline and Newton Public Schools

Parents and Three and Four-Year-Old Children

The Brookline and Newton Public Schools and the Department of Public Health are providing a free multi-cultural pre-school screening for limited English-speaking families with children born between January 1, 1983 and April 1, 1984. Testing will be done for vision, hearing, and general development.

If you have concerns about your child's development, please call April Tang or Anita Wing at 730-2501 for an appointment.

Essay Contest

Essay Contest for the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, Sept. 30.

The National Organization for Women is sponsoring an essay contest for the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. Essay topic will be, "Do We Need An Equal Rights for Women Amendment to the U.S. Constitution?" Students enrolled in Senior High, College, and Continuing Education are eligible. Winners will be awarded Scholarships starting at \$1,000. All entries must be received by Sept. 30. Mail entry to: NOW Foundation Essay Contest, 1401 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 800, Washington, D.C. 20005, (202) 347-2279.

Children

Puppet Theatre, Oct. 3 and 4

The Puppet Showplace Theatre, located at 32 Station Street in Brookline Village, presents "Sweet and Sour Tales" by the Ninots Puppet Theatre. The show is performed by Jane Urban and Mark Dannenhauer. Tickets are \$4. Group rates available. Reservations accepted. Located opposite the Brookline Village Green Line T station, it is barrier-free. Call 731-6400 for more information.

Education Classes

Chinese

The Chinese Cultural Institute will be offering Chinese language classes at its 276 Tremont Street building, located next to the Wang Center for the Performing Arts in Boston.

Chinese language (Mandarin) classes begin Sept. 22. The classes, which have a limited enrollment, will run every Tuesday from 6:00-7:30 p.m. for 12 weeks. Tuition is \$120 for the Intermediate level classes. Call new executive director Laurie Cozad at 542-4599 for more information.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

The Brookline Adult and Community Education program is offering a variety of classes in day and evening times. Classes begin Sept. 28. Call 730-2700 for more information.

Boston Chinese Youth Essential Service

• Employment Training: job training in Harrison Avenue store for experience in working with customers, cash register, cooking etc.

• Other: counseling, crisis intervention, tutoring, job hunting assistance, recreational activities.

Apply: 199 Harrison Ave., 482-4243

Japanese

The Japan Society of Boston will offer five levels of Japanese language course through December 10, 1987:

Beginner I Thursdays 5:30-7:00 p.m.
Beginner II Monday 5:30-7:00 p.m.
Intermediate Tuesdays 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Advanced Tuesdays 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Reading & Conversation Wednesdays 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Classes will be held at the Japan Society of Boston, 22 Battery March Street; 2nd floor; just off Milk Street in Boston's financial district. The cost for each 12 week session is \$160 for Japan Society members; \$180 for non-members.

Japanese language is also taught at the Harvard Extension (495-4024). The Cambridge Center of Adult Education (547-6789), and other non-profit and commercial organizations.

Sports

Quincy School Community Council

• Basketball Volleyball: instruction, four times a week (for members only); basketball and volleyball leagues (see description under "South Cove YMCA")

• Swimming: youngsters w/membership may swim Monday-Friday, 3:30-5 p.m.; families-Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m., or Friday, 5-6:30 p.m. Lessons offered for members (children (Tuesday and Thursday, 10-11 a.m.); adults (Wednesday, 6-7 p.m.))

• Sailing: for ages 12-17; must be able to swim 75 yards; classes Monday-Friday on Charles River.

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Submit resumes to:
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SPORTS

Toronto takes title

By Kin Yil Chin

The 43rd Annual North American Invitational Volleyball Tournament is now history. Children are once again playing basketball at Pagoda Park and the automobile has reclaimed the Surface Artery and Lincoln Street in the form of gridlock.

But for three days earlier this month, the area was the site of more than a dozen volleyball courts.

"This was the only facility local hosts could find big enough to accommodate the group," said tournament host Wayne Lem, a Brighton banker.

It was an astute observation, for over 600 players, playing on 32 men's and 21 women's teams, jammed the streets during Labor Day for the first time since 1981, when Boston last hosted the event.

It was quite a change from that year, when 20 men's and 15 women's squads took part in the competition.

Tournament matches progressed smoothly Saturday and Sunday, but the weather did not cooperate on Monday as heavy rains inundated the playing area. Emergency contingency plans went into effect, with the matches temporarily moving to an indoor gymnasium at Boston City Hospital.

The games were eventually moved back outdoors, where play was completed later in the evening under the lights.

Former All-Star Bobby Guen said that the indoor move demonstrated the close cooperation between the city, BCH and the Chinatown community. "It shows how the community, young and old, from all walks of life, pull together to put on such an important event. [It is] important because it brings the Chinese community together, not only in Boston but throughout the country."

It was a Canadian final in the men's division as Ngai Lum, Toronto, defeated Hung Ying, Montreal, for



It was three days of intense volleyball competition over Labor Day at the 43rd North American Invitational Volleyball Tournament in Chinatown.

At left, stellar defense is shown by one of the teams. Below is the team sponsored by Reggie Wong, posing before one of their matches.

At bottom, clockwise from left, are more scenes from the action, including shots from makeshift courts on the Surface Artery. Much team unity and spirit was shown during the tourney, as another shot indicates.

Not everyone played, as shown by the four youngsters watching and looking for tips when they begin to compete in future tourneys.

the championship. The women's division featured San Francisco teams Just Volleyball and Cavewomen, with Just Volleyball clubbing their cross-town rivals.

Lem and Guen presented the trophies in the women's and men's divisions, respectively. Also present at the ceremony were Chairman Reggie Wong, CCBA President Davis Woo, and Sui-Chi Lin. Lin is director of the Coordination Council for North American Affairs.

So as the players basked in the warm afterglow of spirited competition, the spectators basked in the roaring fires of the impending Texas-style barbeque that commenced immediately after the awards ceremony.

Next year, the city which won the tournament will have the honor of hosting it. See you in Toronto.



S. BEE PHOTO



WILLIAM LAM PHOTOS

A buffet-style catering meal can be just the ticket.

Chinese acrobatic troupe arrives

By Donna Tambascio

The Shanghai Acrobat Troupe, one of the world's finest from The People's Republic of China, is coming to Boston when The Greatest Show on Earth makes its annual visit at the Boston Garden in October.

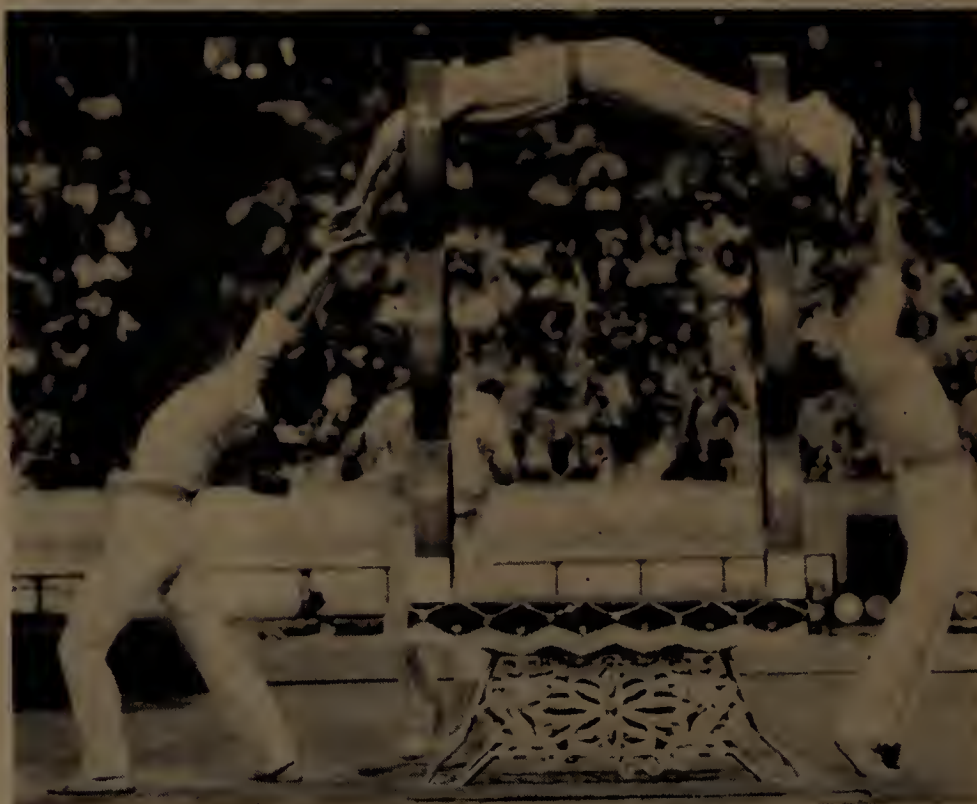
It is the first time the troupe will perform in the United States for a lengthy tour. According to circus producer Kenneth Feld, the thaw in the Cold War-like attitudes between the US and mainland China opened doors previously closed to the West.

"Soon after the United States and the People's Republic resumed diplomatic relations in the early 1970s, we began negotiating to bring some of the great artists to America," Feld related. He described the series of conferences needed to allow the performers to join another troupe. The government, before now, has never allowed the troupe to go on such a long foreign stint.

The beauty, style, balance and perfection of the troupe are traditional of Far East athletes and dancers.

Chinese acrobatic troupes trace their beginnings to around the year 200 B.C., when the Han Dynasty emerged as the kingdom sometimes referred to as "the Roman Empire of the East."

Acrobatics were likely developed by peasants in the northern regions of



The Shanghai Acrobat Troupe will be at Boston Garden Oct. 15-25 with the 116th edition of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

China and performed during celebrations like weddings, good harvest and other joyous occasions.

The popularity and art of acrobatics increased as years went by, and athletes were invited to perform for

visting dignitaries and leading powers.

The Shanghai Acrobatic Troupe, which numbers some 350 members—from acrobats to technical assistants, was founded in 1951 by The Shanghai

Historic Bureau of Culture in an effort to promote and preserve these acrobatic traditions.

Selection into the troupe is made through recruiting cycles every five to seven years. Recommendations are made by veteran performers and instructors for talented boys and girls 8-10 years of age.

Through numerous auditions, 30 of the hundreds of applicants are selected for training.

The first two years are spent learning acrobatic skills, dance and conditioning, plus each student spends afternoons studying academics. After this basic training, the students then specialize in specific skills while still in formal education.

At last, when the students are aged 15-16, they are finally able to begin performing in the troupe.

Among the incredible feats the acrobats perform in The Shanghai Acrobatic Troupe, is the traditional Lion Dance. The dance involved six male acrobats portraying beasts under the careful eye of a female trainer.

The circus itself will feature the colors, arts and sounds of not just the Far East, but also Spain, Mexico, France, Morocco, Casablanca, Hungary and the United States.

Singing ringmaster Jim Ragona will lead the show of clowns, showgirls, death defying stunts and never before seen productions.

Development

continued from page 1

The present construction of executive office towers and luxury hotels around Chinatown has no relationship to the employment and housing needs of an immigrant working class community. But it has a lot to do with the fact that Boston Asians have little established power over what happens to their community. With Chinatown's survival at stake, community control has to be the rallying point.

What is at stake for Chinatown commands attention from Boston's Asian American community as a whole. At a time when Asians throughout New England are raising the issue of political participation, Chinatown's roles as a physical community, as a focus of attention for community people and public officials, as a concentration of resources and organizing experience and as a center of collective action provide an irreplaceable foundation for building political power. Moreover, the struggle for Chinatown, without question, will be seen as a measure of the Asian American community's political resolve.

To fight for community control of Chinatown, there must be a clear understanding of the economics and politics threatening Chinatown.

Economic Restructuring in Boston: Who Benefits?

The intense development besieging Chinatown is the result of a comprehensive transformation of the Massachusetts economy that reflects changes on a national scale. Manufacturing industries are giving way to services such as health care, information processing, and restaurants and hotels.

In Boston, the present development boom represents a surge in the city's post-World War II transformation to a regional center for the service economy. At each step in the transformation, Chinatown has been severely impacted yet consistently excluded from the decision making processes. In the 1950s and 1960s, the construction of the Southeast Expressway and Massachusetts Turnpike for transporting suburban professionals to their downtown offices destroyed thousands of units of Chinatown housing and imposed arbitrary borders to Chinatown's east and south. In the late 1960s, the city cleared the bars and the pornographic theaters in Scollay Square to make room for Government Center and the new City Hall. A few years later, fearing that similar businesses might open on Beacon Hill or in Back Bay, the city established an "adult entertainment district" on the west side of Chinatown.

In the early 1980s, the building of Lafayette Place constricted Chinatown from the north. Meanwhile, throughout the 50s, 60s, 70s, and 80s, Tufts and the New England Medical Center expanded from within Chinatown—replacing housing and businesses with parking lots and highly specialized research centers

having no direct benefit to the community. Billions of dollars in new developments over the past decade have made the city's central business district one of the most expensive pieces of land in the country, second only to Manhattan. For a working class residential community in the middle of downtown, the implications are more menacing than ever.

Thus, in the name of "urban renewal," the city's development projects have levelled thousands of housing units, boxed in Chinatown from all sides, reduced the size of the community by half while Chinatown's population quadrupled. For more than a decade, Chinatown has been the most overcrowded neighborhood in Boston.

In the meantime, the construction of executive office towers has failed to generate new job opportunities for Chinatown workers. The overall employment picture has not improved over the last 30 years. The vast majority of residents remain in the low-end sectors of manufacturing (garments and electronics) and services (restaurants and hotels). Three quarters of the men in Chinatown work in restaurants. Many work 10 to 12 hours a day, six days a week. There are not insurances or benefits. Three quarters of the women work in garment factories on piece rate. In addition, the women must do housework and look after the children.

The restaurant industry has long been saturated in Chinatown. Everyday, restaurant workers wait for rides to take them hours away to Maine or New Hampshire to work. The garment industry is in decline. Many garment shops around Chinatown are moving out because of rising property value. But for most recent immigrants, the Chinatown area offers the only employment opportunities because they speak no English. Even those who were trained as accountants or artists can only find jobs as cooks or seamstresses.

For most working class immigrants, once they enter the routines of a job, they are locked into a tormenting cycle. The long work hours leave them too tired to study English. Yet, learning English is the only means to advancement.

To channel Boston's economic boom into the neighborhoods, Boston Mayor Ray Flynn has presented the parcel to parcel linkage program, which requires the developers of publicly owned downtown parcels to contribute funds for land developments and job training in neighborhoods such as Roxbury and Chinatown. In addition, minority business groups able to meet a minimum equity level can vie for a share of the development rights. Is the linkage program a radical change from the pivotal role that state and city governments have played historically in facilitating and coordinating the economic transformation, largely to the benefit of a "progrowth coalition" of downtown business elites, ambitious politicians, private developers, and urban planners? Does it institutionalize community-controlled development? Who benefits?

Corporations and developers will continue to benefit. The linkage funds deriving from downtown will subsidize developments in the neighborhoods—

not just for housing but also for office spaces that are competitively priced with suburban complexes. The construction of the new Orange Line along the new Southwest Corridor is a sure sign that corporations are headed for the neighborhoods, especially Roxbury. The job training component of linkage will subsidize the building of a labor supply for the growing service industries which will fill the new office spaces. To top it off, the ostensible contribution to community development will add political legitimacy to the present development boom regardless of substantive benefits to the communities.

A select elite of minority business people with substantial capital will benefit. By requiring a minority partner in linkage projects, the program partially institutionalizes the demand for economic access that communities of color have been raising for decades. However, by specifying a minimum equity level for participation, the program will serve mainly to augment the wealth of a very small elite of minority entrepreneurs.

What about the Chinatown community on the whole? The linkage proposal is questionable in general but especially devious as Chinatown is located in the middle of downtown. Specifying the amount of linkage fund to be proportional to the size of the downtown development, the program forces Chinatown to accept and legitimate massive structures in its proximity in order to produce more development funds for itself or other communities. This is particularly dangerous, as it pits the interest of Chinatown against those of other communities. In the long run, because the linkage legitimates rather than challenges the market forces that fuel the present development boom, it cannot prevent land from becoming "too valuable" for low-cost housing and small businesses.

Most importantly, the linkage program fails to institutionalize mechanisms for community-controlled development, such as community veto. The power relationships between Chinatown, the city, and individual developers and institutions remain basically unchanged. The Boston Redevelopment Authority may discourage a particular expansion by the New England Medical Center in order to garner support from Chinatown on a linkage project. But it is clear that Chinatown still does not have formal or substantive control over its land and labor.

Chinatown provides necessary housing, jobs, support, and services for immigrant workers and refugees. Chinatown is also an essential political base for the emerging Asian American community in Greater Boston. But the survival of Chinatown is threatened by developments over which it has little control. In the coming period, standing firm for community control of Chinatown is a necessity for survival and livelihood. It is also the strongest message possible that Asians are becoming a political force that cannot be ignored.

REFLECTIONS



Children parade in the mid-1960s through Chinatown celebrating the "Double Tenth" anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China and overthrow of the Manchu Dynasty.



Chinese Merchants Association building shown at various stages a few decades ago. At right is the former Beach Street building, circa 1941. Above is the new Hudson Street building under construction in Feb., 1951. At top is the scene at opening ceremonies later that year.



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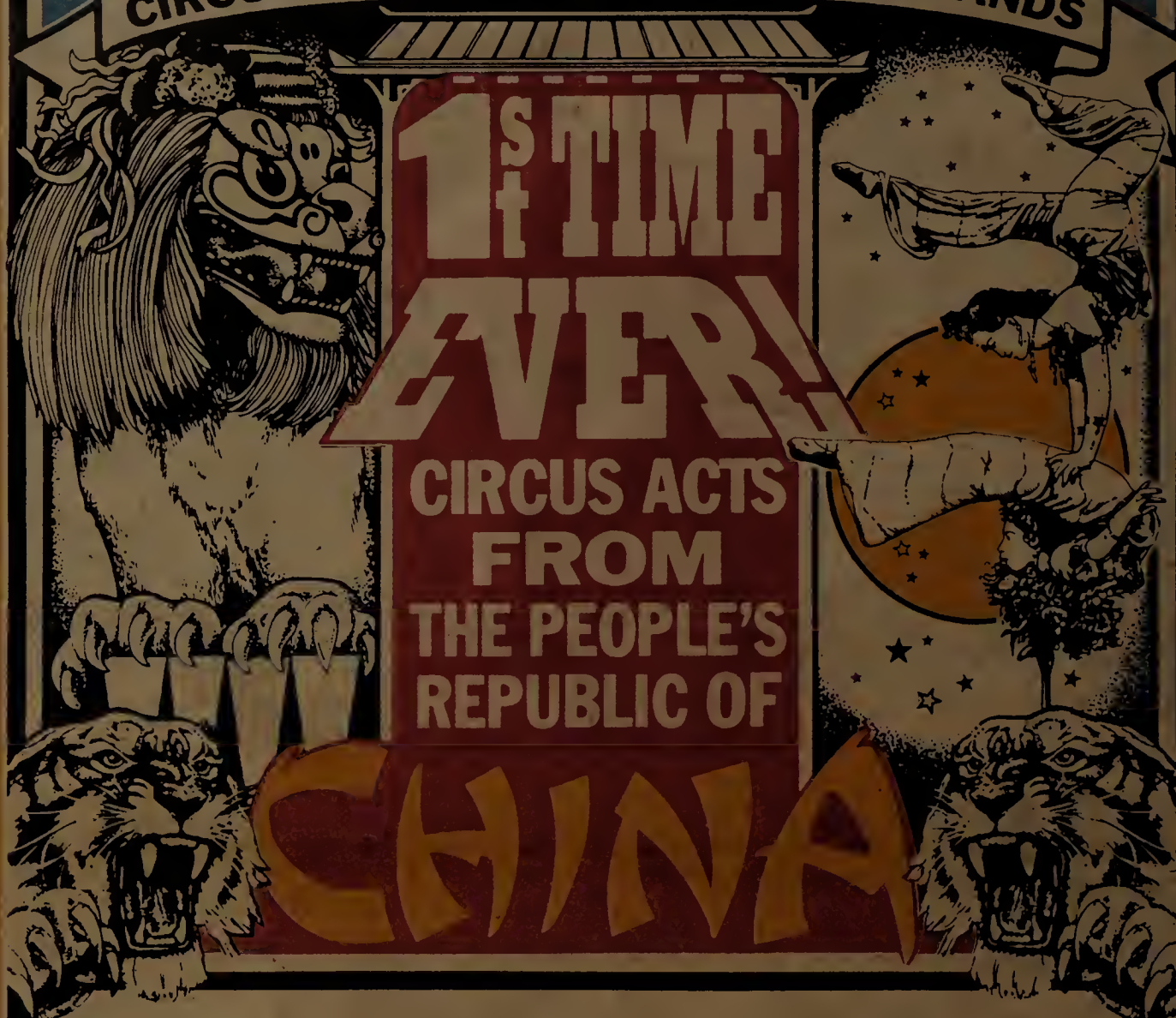
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